

City of Charleston Public Service Files, 1964-1983

Descriptive Summary

Title and Dates:

City of Charleston Public Service Files, 1964-1983

Creators:

Harold B. Nielson, Jr., P.E., 1978-1980

Mario J. Ciappa, 1980-1983

F. M. Searson, Jr., 1964-1965

Charles Rector, 1965

Byron Beck, 1965-1983

Quantity:

4 cubic ft.

Forms of Material:

Correspondence, reports, contracts, invoices, legal papers, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, articles, maps, plats, and photographs

Processed by:

Rebecca Schultz and Anna Simpkins, 2014

Abstract:

The files of the directors of the City of Charleston Public Services Department, with the bulk of material falling between 1978 and 1983 along with files from the Electric Division under three supervisors dating from 1964 to 1983. The collection consists of the papers of two directors who supervised the department during the subject years, Harold B. Nielson, Jr. and Mario J. Ciappa. The collection also contains the papers of the Electrical Division under two City Electricians, Charles S. Rector and Byron Beck, and one Acting City Electrician, F.M. Searson, Jr. These records document the City's efforts to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents through the enforcement of building and environmental codes, the maintenance of public right of ways, and the development of a stormwater management system.

Background

The Department of Public Service was established in 1924 under the direction of Mayor Thomas Porcher Stoney. At that time, the department was composed of six main divisions: the Central Office Division; Construction Division; Division of Street Lighting, Fire and Police Telegraph, and Electrical Inspection; the Stables, Shops, and Equipment Division; the Street Cleaning and Waste Collection Division; and the Maintenance Division. The organization of the department changed over the years with some divisions being combined, eliminated or otherwise amended.

During the time period covered by the collection, the Department of Public Service went through some rather sweeping changes. In the 1975 Code of Ordinances, the department consisted of just four divisions: Engineering, Sanitation and Maintenance, Zoning, and Inspections. In subsequent years, the

Zoning Division moved to the Department of Planning and Urban Development while the Sanitation and Maintenance Division was separated into the Sanitation Division, the Streets and Sidewalks Division, and the Shops and Equipment Division. In 1979, the Department of Electricity became the Division of Electrical and Communications under the auspices of the Public Service Department. The following year, an ordinance transferred the George M. Lockwood Municipal Marina from the Department of Special Facilities to the Department of Public Service. Towards the end of this record series, the Shops and Equipment Division was transferred to the Executive Department where it eventually became known as the Fleet Management Division.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the files of two directors, Harold B. Nielson, Jr., P.E. (1977 – July 1980) and Mario J. Ciappa (August 1980 – 1983), along with the papers of three City Electricians, F. M. Searson (1964 – 1965), Charles S. Rector (1965), and Byron Beck (1965 – 1983). The collection is thus separated into five distinct series, organized chronologically as well as topically. The material found in the collection includes internal and external office correspondence, reports and studies, manuals and pamphlets, invoices, legal papers, deeds, plats, maps, and site plans, ordinances, meeting minutes, zoning request forms, newspaper articles and advertisements, and photographs.

Under Nielson's and Ciappa's leadership the divisions that made up the Department of Public Service were party to a number of significant renovations and improvements occurring in Charleston during this time period. A few projects of note include renovations to the Josiah Smith Tennent House, City Hall, and the Heyward-Washington House, as well as, improvements to the Lockwood Marina, Rice Mill Building, Garden Theatre, Gaillard Auditorium, and Shaw Community Center. The construction of The Charleston Center and accompanying Meeting Street renovation is another project of importance which transpired throughout the subject period. In administrative discussions, several subjects of interest predominate, including environmental concerns, rehabilitation efforts in the City's Eastside neighborhoods, and stormwater drainage problems. The records of the City Electricians include documentation of bandstand use, street lighting records and complaints or requests to the Department.

Series List

Series I – Harold B. Nielson, Jr., P.E., Files, 1975-1981 (bulk 1978-1980), Boxes F-163 and F-164

Series II – Mario J. Ciappa, 1976-1983 (bulk 1980-1982), Boxes F-164 and F-165

Series III - F. M. Searson, Jr., City Electrician, 1964-1965

Series VI - Charles Rector, Acting City Electrician, 1965

Series V - Byron Beck, City Electrician, 1965-1983

Container List**Box Folder***Harold Nielson Files:*

F-163	1	Administrative Services, 1978
F-163	2	Administrative Services, 1979
F-163	3	Administrative Services, January-July 1980
F-163	4	Airport, 1978-1979
F-163	5	Board of Adjustments, 1978
F-163	6	Board of Adjustments, 1979
F-163	7	Board of Adjustments, January-July 1980
F-163	8	Budget, 1979
F-163	9	Budget, 1979-1980
F-163	10	Building Inspection, 1979
F-163	11	Building Inspections, 1978
F-163	12	Building Inspections, January-July 1980
F-163	13	Charleston Council of Architects, 1978
F-163	14	Charleston Mapping Program, 1977-1978
F-163	15	Committees, 1978-1979
F-163	16	Complaints, 1978-1979
F-163	17	Consultant Studies, 1979-1980
F-163	18	Corporation Council, 1979
F-163	19	Corporation Council, January-July 1980
F-163	20	Department Heads, 1978-1979
F-163	21	Department Work Orders, 1977-1979 (bulk 1978)
F-163	22	Dockside Condominiums, 1979
F-163	23	Driveways, 1978-1979
F-163	24	Economic Development Administration, 1978
F-163	25	Electrical, 1978
F-163	26	Electrical, 1979
F-163	27	Fennessey, Marion C., 1977-1978
F-163	28	Ferrara, Robert, 1977-1980
F-163	29	Garage, 1978-1979
F-163	30	Goodson, Joe M., 1978
F-163	31	Hurricanes, 1976
F-163	32	Indigo Inn, 1978-1979
F-163	33	King Street Complex, 1978-1979
F-163	34	King Street Complex Land Acquisition, 1978-1979
F-163	35	Lockwood Marina, 1977-July 1980
F-163	36	Lockwood Marina Operating Statements, 1978-1980
F-163	37	Lot Cleaning, 1977-1979
F-163	38	Market – Market Street Area, 1977-1979
F-163	39	Mayor, 1979
F-163	40	Mayor, January-July 1980
F-163	41	Murray, William – Property, 1977
F-163	42	National Park Service Tour Boat Facility, 1978
F-163	43	Neighborhood Councils, 1979
F-163	44	Neighborhood Housing Service, 1978
F-163	45	Newspaper Recovery Program, 1978

Box	Folder	
F-164	46	North Charleston Sewer District, 1975-1977
F-164	47	Ombudsman, 1978
F-164	48	Ombudsman, 1979
F-164	49	Parsell Property, 1979
F-164	50	Personnel Department, 1978-1979
F-164	51	Personnel Study, 1977
F-164	52	Plat Requirements, 1978
F-164	53	Public Service Announcements, 1978-1980
F-164	54	Receptacles – Litter Prevention, 1976
F-164	55	Saint Francis Hospital, 1977-1979
F-164	56	Salary Information, 1978
F-164	57	Sanitation, 1978
F-164	58	Sanitation, 1979
F-164	59	Sanitation, January-July 1980
F-164	60	Shaw Center Expansion, 1978-1979
F-164	61	Special Facilities, 1979
F-164	62	Streets and Sidewalks, 1975-1978 (bulk 1978)
F-164	63	Streets and Sidewalks, 1979
F-164	64	Streets and Sidewalks, January-July 1980
F-164	65	The Neck Annexation, 1977
F-164	66	United Way Restitution Program, 1979
F-164	67	Water Pollution, 1977
<i>Mario Ciappa Files</i>		
F-164	68	AAA Administrative Services, 1979-1981
F-164	69	Administrative Services, 1980-1981 (bulk 1981)
F-164	70	Administrative Services, 1982-1983 (bulk 1982)
F-164	71	Board of Adjustments, August-December 1980
F-164	72	Budget, 1981
F-164	73	Budget, 1982
F-164	74	Building Inspections, 1980-1981
F-164	75	Corporation Counsel, August-December 1980
F-164	76	Corporation Counsel, 1981
F-165	77	Corporation Counsel, 1982
F-165	78	Data Processing Steering Committee, 1980-1981
F-165	79	Equipment Management, 1978-1981
F-165	80	Lockwood Marina, August 1980-1981
F-165	81	Lockwood Marina, 1982
F-165	82	Lockwood Marina Operating Statements, 1980-1982
F-165	83	Management by Objectives Program, 1976-1977
F-165	84	Mayor August-December, 1980
F-165	85	Mayor, 1981
F-165	86	Mayor, January-July 1982
F-165	87	Mayor, August-December 1982
F-165	88	Oxford Services, 1980-1981
F-165	89	Personnel, 1980-1981
F-165	90	Sanitation Division, July-December 1980

Box	Folder	
F-165	91	Sanitation Division, 1982
F-165	92	Shops and Equipment, 1981
F-165	93	Shops and Equipment, 1982
F-165	94	Streets and Sidewalks, August-December 1980
F-165	95	Streets and Sidewalks, 1981
F-165	96	Ways and Means Correspondence, 1980
F-165	97	Ways and Means, 1982-1983
F-165	98	Weekly Departmental Reports, 1981
F-165	99	Weekly Departmental Reports, January-May 1982
F-165	100	Weekly Departmental Reports, June-October 1982
<i>F. M. Searson, Jr. Files</i>		
F-166	101	A.J. Tamsberg, Clerk of Council Correspondence, April-June 1964
<i>Charles Rector Files</i>		
F-166	102	A.J. Tamsberg, Clerk of Council Correspondence, July 1964-July 1966
F-166	103	Electrical Letters, April 1964-August 1967
<i>Byron Beck Files</i>		
F-166	104	Action Request Forms, Complaint/Request, July 1972-July 1982
F-166	105	Bandstand Use Correspondence, February 1970-November 1971
F-166	106	Conventions Correspondence, March-December 1971
F-166	107	A.J. Tamsberg, Clerk of Council Correspondence, August 1966-March 1979
F-166	108	Electric Wires and Lighting Committee, June 1972-November 1978
F-166	109	Electrical Letters, December 1966-July 1979
F-166	110	General Correspondence, March 1966-November 1982
F-166	111	Internal Office Correspondence, June 1968-September 1979
F-166	112	Internal Office Correspondence, October 1979-May 1983
F-166	113	J. Palmer Gaillard, Jr. Mayor, Correspondence, January 1967-June 1974
F-166	114	External Office Correspondence, May 1967-August 1977
F-166	115	External Office Correspondence, September 1977-April 1983
F-166	116	Personal Correspondence, July 1971-December 1978
F-166	117	Personal Correspondence, December 1978-October 1981
F-116	118	Street Lighting, July 1964-December 1972
F-166	119	Street Lighting, January 1973-December 1973
F-166	120	Street Lighting, September 1973-June 1978
F-166	121	Street Lighting, August 1978-December 1979
F-166	122	Street Lighting, January 1980-February 1982
F-166	123	Street Lighting, March 1982-April 1984
F-166	124	Traffic and Transportation, June 1977-November 1983
F-166	125	Traffic and Transportation, July 1977-November 1983
F-166	126	Ways and Means Committee, June 1966-February 1981